**The Matrix**

The matrix is a movie in which the main protagonist, Neo, is told that his reality and therefore the world he perceives to be true is in fact a false world. Neo doesn’t believe Morpheus and company who are trying to convince him at first but surely enough by using Neo’s ways of knowing and understanding they convince that the new reality is in fact the “real world”. First off to try and convince Neo they use his sense of perception to try and get him to see the true reality by showing him the world outside the matrix, next they try to appeal to his reason to make him understand why the world he is seeing is the real world and that the matrix is not. Morpheus also used emotion and language to a slightly lesser degree to convince neo that the world outside the matrix is real.

So what Morpheus tries to convey to Neo is that reality is not necessarily truth, by reality I mean the world which is built upon an individual’s perception and experiences of the environment around them. When I use truth I simple refer to truths presented in the movies context to avoid needing to quantify truth on a larger scale. In this case Neo’s reality was the matrix however the truth was that Neo and millions of others were being farmed by robots who had taken over the earth. Another example of this is when the small child in the oracles apartment talks to Neo and says “do not try and bend the spoon, instead only try to realise the truth. There is no spoon” in that one piece of dialogue he shows us that reality is not necessarily truth by having our perception of the spoon as reality and our knowledge of its non-existence as the truth.

Something the movie showed me was that sometimes one can know the truth however they can consciously decide to ignore it, like the Judas amongst the rebels, cypher. That being said the movie has presented us with two ways of a person’s reality conflicting with the truth, either you are unaware like the people in the pods or you actively deny the truth due to an individual not liking it because be it doesn’t fit with that individuals reality and . Not liking the Truth can lead to a breakdown much like cypher; he stated that he should have taken the blue pill and that he shouldn’t have sacrificed his ignorance for truth. This leads me to ask which is more important, truth or reality? On one hand Neo, Morpheus and trinity, show us that truth is more important and on the other is cypher, who shows us that reality is more important.

Another point I noticed was that Neo was constantly told he was the one and that he had a destiny to fulfil, does this mean that Neo had no choice and that he had no free will? Morpheus tells Neo that “I can only show you the door, it is up to you to go through it,” if Neo is indeed the one then it is not up to him to go through the door and it is in fact pre-ordained that he must do it, thus Morpheus creates the illusion of free will for Neo. There are many other times when Morpheus does this, particularly with the red pill and the blue pill scenario which is actually no different than Neo’s decision to go through the oracles door or to get into the car with trinity. Even when Neo didn’t trust Morpheus’ words and got taken in by the agents it still led to the outcome of him getting ejected from the matrix eventually, or maybe him not trusting Morpheus was also pre-determined. Whatever the scenario the amount of free will he actually has comes into question and If Neo has no free will and all of it is pre-ordained then what is the point of the illusion created by Morpheus? Does this illusion lead Neo to cooperate? If so then doesn’t he have a choice in the first place? The real question is: are Neo’s actions really his own or are they being dictated by a higher power than himself?

The knowledge issues I have presented from the matrix have plagued great philosophers for centuries and rightly so since they are such vast concepts and so hard to answer that it seem like an impossible dream for me to even try to answer them.